



**February 2004**

## ***Citizen Corps Score***

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A Monthly Publication for Indiana  
Citizen Corps Councils, their  
Partners and Affiliates

### **National Update**

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security today launched US-VISIT, a new program to enhance the nation's security while facilitating legitimate travel and trade through our borders. New entry procedures took effect today for most foreign visitors with non-immigrant visas at 115 airports and cruise ship terminals at 14 seaports. The system utilizes biometrics, which are physical characteristics unique to each individual, to verify identity. Biometrics technologies are the basis of an extensive array of highly secure identification and personal verification solutions. US-VISIT requires that most foreign visitors traveling to the U.S. on a visa have their two index fingers scanned and a digital photograph taken to verify their identity at the port of entry. The US-VISIT program will enhance the security of U.S. citizens and visitors by verifying the identity of visitors with visas. At the same time, it facilitates legitimate travel and trade by leveraging technology and the evolving use of biometrics to expedite processing at our borders.

### **Neighborhood Watch Outreach Programs (NW)**

Engaging members of the community to volunteer their time is at the very heart of the Neighborhood Watch program. Those who participate in Neighborhood Watch programs are not merely private citizens and law

enforcement agencies; Neighborhood Watch also relies on the support and participation of many other entities, such as cultural institutions, government agencies, faith-based organizations, businesses, and the nonprofit sector. To learn more about these outreach programs, visit <http://www.usaonwatch.com/outreach/index.aspx>

## **Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS)**

The Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) Program has announced the dates of five regional symposia in 2004. The regional symposia have been designed to assist law enforcement agencies interested in developing a volunteer program and to introduce VIPS and law enforcement volunteer resources and efforts to agencies interested in establishing or expanding their volunteer program. The focus will be on the planning, implementation, development and sustenance of a volunteer program, as well as building a regional network of volunteer programs. The following are the sites and dates of the VIPS regional symposia:

March 3, 2004

Charlotte, North Carolina

May 18, 2004 Indianapolis, Indiana

May 25, 2004 Providence, Rhode Island

June 8, 2004 Dallas, Texas

June 15, 2004 Portland, Oregon

Please let your local law enforcement agencies know of this opportunity, so that your Citizen Corps may incorporate this volunteer opportunity. For more information <http://www.policevolunteers.org/resources/symposia/>

## **Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T)**

"Introduction to Community Emergency Response Teams", IS 317, is an on-line, independent study course that can serve as either an introduction to those wanting to join a Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) or as a refresher to current team members. It has six modules with topics that include an Introduction to CERT, Fire Safety, Hazardous Material and Terrorist Incidents, Disaster Medical Operations, and Search and Rescue. It takes between six and eight hours to take the course. Those successfully finishing it will receive a certification of completion from the Independent Study Office. For more information <http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/IS/is317.asp>

## Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)

Is liability one of the reasons your Citizen Corps Council doesn't start a Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)? To find out more about liability, and how it pertains to MRC, please refer to <http://www94311.temp.w1.com/pubs/sll.htm>  
A publication called State Liability Laws for Charitable Organizations and Volunteers to learn more on your Council's risk of liability.

## Area Agencies on Aging

Indiana's Area Agencies on Aging provide case management and information and referral to various services for persons who are aging or developmentally disabled. These agencies are a good resource to help with issues affecting the elderly in your area, and to contact concerning how you can approach this valuable community resource for involvement in Citizen Corps. The following website gives you contact information for the 16 area agencies. The contact information lists what counties each agency covers. <http://www.in.gov/fssa/elderly/aaa/index.html>

## Local Council Updates

Spencer County Citizen Corps Council, starting with it's second C.E.R.T team training back in January, has started to include a Citizen Crime Watch (a.k.a. Neighborhood Watch) module as part of it's C.E.R.T training. This is an excellent way for councils to incorporate more than one of the federal Citizen Corps programs. Johnson County started their second C.E.R.T class in January and will complete the course on February 7th with an exercise. Porter County now has seven C.E.R.T instructors trained, and are planning Student Emergency Response Team training for February. Also, Porter County is initiating a C.E.R.T curriculum where a chapter a week is covered so those who can't attend a weekend long course can still become C.E.R.T certified. Posey County is scheduled to start its first C.E.R.T training February 2nd. Hendricks County will be traveling to different cities around the county to educate the public about what Citizen Corps is, and to sign up individuals for C.E.R.T training, which will begin in March.

## Publications/Resources

Emergency Preparedness by Evan Gabrielsen Horizon Publishers \$11.98

Emergency Survival Packs by Blair D. Jaynes Horizon Publishers \$5.98  
Mitigate Potential Attacks against Buildings <http://www.fema.gov/pdf/fima/fema426.pdf>  
Practical Information on Crisis Planning <http://www.ed.gov/admins/lead/safety/emergencyplan/crisisplanning.pdf>

## Upcoming Events

February is Black History Month  
February 02 Groundhog Day  
February 12 Abraham Lincoln's Birthday  
February 16 President's Day (observed)  
February 29 Leap Day

## Car Maintenance Safety Tips

Items to be checked every time you drive:

### Outside of the car:

Tires are not low or flat; tread is not worn away  
Windshield wipers work; sufficient amount of wiper fluid  
No leaks under the car  
Mirrors, directional signals, head, tail, and brake lights are clean and not broken

### Inside of the car:

All doors are fully closed and locked  
Seat and head restraint comfortably adjusted  
All passengers properly belted  
Mirrors, vents, windows are properly adjusted  
Gauges work and accurately show engines condition

Keep in Touch!

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